

# RETURN

TO AN ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, dated January 22, 1912, for a copy of the Treaty between Great Britain, the United States, Japan and Russia for the suspension of pelagic sealing, and all correspondence regarding the same from the initial negotiations to the present day.

W. J. ROCHE,  
*Secretary of State.*

OTTAWA, February 5, 1912.

## No. 1.

CONVENTION BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, JAPAN AND RUSSIA, FOR THE ADOPTION OF MEANS LOOKING TO THE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE FUR SEAL. SIGNED AT WASHINGTON, ON JULY 7, 1911.

The United States of America, His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, being desirous of adopting effective means for the preservation and protection of the fur seals which frequent the waters of the North Pacific Ocean, have resolved to conclude a Convention for the purpose, and to that end have named as their plenipotentiaries.

The President of the United States of America, the Honourable Charles Nagel, Secretary of Commerce and Labour of the United States, and the Honourable Chandler P. Anderson, Counsellor of the Department of State of the United States;

His Britannic Majesty, the Right Honourable James Bryce, of the Order of Merit, his Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Washington, and Joseph Pope, Esquire, Commander of the Royal Victorian Order and Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, Under Secretary of State of Canada for External Affairs;

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, Baron Yasuya Uchida, Jusammi, Grand Cordon of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun, his Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Washington; and the Honourable Hitoshi Dauké, Shoshii, Third Class of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun, Director of the Bureau of Fisheries, Department of Agriculture and Commerce;

His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, the Honourable Pierre Botkine, Chamberlain of His Majestys Court, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Morocco, and Baron Boris Nolde, of the Foreign Office;



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Who, after having communicated to one another their respective full powers, which were found to be in due and proper form, have agreed upon the following articles:

## ARTICLE I.

The High Contracting Parties mutually and reciprocally agree that their citizens and subjects respectively, and all persons subject to their laws and treaties, and their vessels, shall be prohibited, while this convention remains in force, from engaging in pelagic sealing in the waters of the North Pacific Ocean, north of the thirtieth parallel of north latitude and including the Seas of Behring, Kamchatka, Okhotsk and Japan, and that every such person and vessel offending against such prohibition may be seized, except within the territorial jurisdiction of one of the other powers, and detained by the naval or other duly commissioned officers of any of the parties to this convention, to be delivered as soon as practicable to an authorized official of their own nation at the nearest point to the place of seizure, or elsewhere as may be mutually agreed upon; and that the authorities of the nation to which such person or vessel belongs alone shall have jurisdiction to try the offence and impose the penalties for the same; and that the witnesses and proofs necessary to establish the offence, so far as they are under the control of any of the parties to this convention, shall also be furnished with all reasonable promptitude to the proper authorities having jurisdiction to try the offence.

## ARTICLE II.

Each of the High Contracting Parties further agrees that no person or vessel shall be permitted to use any of its ports or harbours or any part of its territory for any purpose whatsoever connected with the operations of pelagic sealing in the waters within the protected area mentioned in Article I.

## ARTICLE III.

Each of the High Contracting Parties further agrees that no sealskins taken in the waters of the North Pacific Ocean within the protected area mentioned in Article I, and no sealskins identified as the species known as *Callorhinus alascanus*, *Callorhinus ursinus*, and *Callorhinus kurilensis*, and belonging to the American, Russian or Japanese herds, except such as are taken under the authority of the respective Powers to which the breeding grounds of such herds belong and have been officially marked and certified as having been so taken, shall be permitted to be imported or brought into the territory of any of the Parties to this Convention.

## ARTICLE IV.

It is further agreed that the provisions of this Convention shall not apply to Indians, Ainos, Aleuts, or other aborigines dwelling on the coast of the waters mentioned in Article I, who carry on pelagic sealing in canoes not transported by or used in connection with other vessels, and propelled entirely by oars, paddles, or sails, and manned by not more than five persons each, in the way hitherto practised, and without the use of firearms; provided that such aborigines are not in the employment of other persons, or under contract to deliver the skins to any person.

## ARTICLE V.

Each of the High Contracting Parties agrees that it will not permit its citizens or subjects or their vessels to kill, capture or pursue beyond the distance of three miles from the shore line of its territories sea otters in any part of the waters mentioned in Article I of this Convention.



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ARTICLE VI.

Each of the High Contracting Parties agrees to enact and enforce ~~sach~~ legislation as may be necessary to make effective the foregoing provisions with appropriate penalties for violations thereof.

ARTICLE VII.

It is agreed on the part of the United States, Japan and Russia that each respectively will maintain a guard or patrol in the waters frequented by the seal herd in the protection of which it is especially interested, so far as may be necessary for the enforcement of the foregoing provisions.

ARTICLE VIII.

All of the High Contracting Parties agree to co-operate with each other in taking such measures as may be appropriate and available for the purpose of preventing pelagic sealing in the prohibited area mentioned in Article I.

ARTICLE IX.

The term pelagic sealing is hereby defined for the purposes of this Convention as meaning the killing, capturing or pursuing in any manner whatsoever of fur seals at sea.

ARTICLE X.

The United States agrees that of the total number of sealskins taken annually under the authority of the United States upon the Pribilof Islands or any other islands or shores of the waters mentioned in Article I subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to which any seal herds hereafter resort, there shall be delivered at the Pribilof Islands at the end of each season fifteen per cent (15 per cent) gross in number and value thereof to an authorized agent of the Canadian Government and fifteen per cent (15 per cent) gross in number and value thereof to an authorized agent of the Japanese Government; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall restrict the right of the United States at any time and from time to time to suspend altogether the taking of sealskins on such islands or shores subject to its jurisdiction, and to impose such restrictions and regulations upon the total number of skins to be taken in any season and the manner and times and places of taking them as may seem necessary to protect and preserve the seal herd or to increase its number.

ARTICLE XI.

The United States further agrees to pay the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to Great Britain and the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to Japan when this Convention goes into effect, as an advance payment in each case in lieu of such number of fur-seal skins to which Great Britain and Japan respectively would be entitled under the provisions of this Convention as would be equivalent in each case to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) reckoned at their market value at London at the date of their delivery before dressing and curing and less cost of transportation from the Pribilof Islands, such market value in case of dispute to be determined by an umpire to be agreed upon by the United States and Great Britain, or by the United States and Japan, as the case may be, which skins shall be retained by the United States in satisfaction of such payments.

The United States further agrees that the British and Japanese share respectively of the sealskins taken from the American herd under the terms of this Con-



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vention shall be not less than one thousand (1,000) each in any year even if such number is more than fifteen per cent (15 per cent) of the number to which the authorized killing is restricted in such year, unless the killing of seals in such year or years shall have been absolutely prohibited by the United States for all purposes except to supply food, clothing, and boat skins for the natives on the islands, in which case the United States agrees to pay to Great Britain and to Japan each the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) annually in lieu of any share of skins during the years when no killing is allowed; and Great Britain agrees, and Japan agrees, that after deducting the skins of their respective shares, which are to be retained by the United States as above provided to reimburse itself for the advance payment aforesaid, the United States shall be entitled to reimburse itself for any annual payments made as herein required, by retaining an additional number of sealskins from the British and Japanese shares respectively over and above the specified minimum allowance of one thousand (1,000) skins in any subsequent year or years when killing is again resumed, until the whole number of skins retained shall equal, reckoned at their market value determined as above provided for, the entire amount so paid, with interest at the rate of four per cent (4 per cent) per annum.

If, however, the total number of seals frequenting the United States islands in any year falls below one hundred thousand (100,000), enumerated by official count, then all killing, excepting the inconsiderable supply necessary for the support of the natives as above noted, may be suspended without allowance of skins or payment of money equivalent until the number of such seals again exceeds one hundred thousand (100,000), enumerated in like manner.

#### ARTICLE XII.

It is agreed on the part of Russia that of the total number of sealskins taken annually upon the Commander Islands, or any other island or shores of the waters defined in Article I subject to the jurisdiction of Russia to which any seal herds hereafter resort, there shall be delivered at the Commander Islands at the end of each season fifteen per cent (15 per cent) gross in number and value thereof to an authorized agent of the Canadian Government, and fifteen per cent (15 per cent) gross in number and value thereof to an authorized agent of the Japanese Government; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall restrict the right of Russia at any time and from time to time during the first five years of the term of this Convention to suspend altogether the taking of sealskins on such islands or shores subject to its jurisdiction, and to impose during the term of this Convention such restrictions and regulations upon the total number of skins to be taken in any season, and the manner and times and places of taking them as may seem necessary to preserve and protect the Russian seal herd, or to increase its number; but it is agreed, nevertheless, on the part of Russia that during the last ten years of the term of this Convention not less than five per cent (5 per cent) of the total number of seals on the Russian rookeries and hauling grounds will be killed annually, provided that said five per cent (5 per cent) does not exceed eighty-five per cent (85 per cent) of the three-year-old male seals hauling in such year.

If, however, the total number of seals frequenting the Russian islands in any year falls below eighteen thousand (18,000) enumerated by official count, then the allowance of skins mentioned above and all killing of seals except such as may be necessary for the support of the natives on the islands may be suspended until the number of such seals again exceeds eighteen thousand (18,000) enumerated in like manner.



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## ARTICLE XIII.

It is agreed on the part of Japan that of the total number of sealskins taken annually upon Robben Island, or any other islands or shores of the waters defined in Article I subject to the jurisdiction of Japan to which any seal herds hereafter resort, there shall be delivered at Robben Island at the end of each season ten per cent (10 per cent) gross in number and value thereof to an authorized agent of the United States Government, ten per cent (10 per cent) gross in number and value thereof to an authorized agent of the Canadian Government, and ten per cent (10 per cent) gross in number and value thereof to an authorized agent of the Russian Government; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall restrict the right of Japan at any time and from time to time during the first five years of the term of this convention to suspend altogether the taking of sealskins on such islands or shores subject to its jurisdiction, and to impose during the term of this convention such restrictions and regulations upon the total number of skins to be taken in any season, and the manner and times and places of taking them as may seem necessary to preserve and protect the Japanese herd, or to increase its number; but it is agreed, nevertheless, on the part of Japan that during the last ten years of the term of this convention not less than five per cent (5 per cent) of the total number of seals on the Japanese rookeries and hauling grounds will be killed annually, provided that said five per cent (5 per cent) does not exceed eighty-five per cent (85 per cent) of the three-year-old male seals hauling in such year.

If, however, the total number of seals frequenting the Japanese islands in any year falls below six thousand five hundred (6,500) enumerated by official count, then the allowance of skins mentioned above and all killing of seals except such as may be necessary for the support of the natives on the islands, may be suspended until the number of such seals again exceeds six thousand five hundred (6,500) enumerated in like manner.

## ARTICLE XIV.

It is agreed on the part of Great Britain that in case any seal herd hereafter resorts to any islands or shores of the waters defined in Article I, subject to the jurisdiction of Great Britain, there shall be delivered at the end of each season during the term of this convention ten per cent (10 per cent) gross in number and value of the total number of sealskins annually taken from such herd to an authorized agent of the United States Government, ten per cent (10 per cent) gross in number and value of the total number of sealskins annually taken from such herd to an authorized agent of the Japanese Government, and ten per cent (10 per cent) gross in number and value of the total number of sealskins annually taken from such herd to an authorized agent of the Russian Government.

## ARTICLE XV.

It is further agreed between the United States and Great Britain that the provisions of this convention shall supersede, in so far as they are inconsistent therewith or in duplication thereof, the provisions of the treaty relating to the fur seals, entered into between the United States and Great Britain on the 7th day of February, 1911.

## ARTICLE XVI.

This convention shall go into effect upon the 15th day of December, 1911, and shall continue in force for a period of fifteen (15) years from that date, and thereafter until terminated by twelve (12) months' written notice given by one or more



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of the parties to all of the others, which notice may be given at the expiration of fourteen years or at any time afterwards, and it is agreed that at any time prior to the termination of this convention, upon the request of any of the High Contracting Parties, a conference shall be held forthwith between representatives of all the parties hereto, to consider and if possible agree upon a further extension of this convention with such additions and modifications, if any, as may be found desirable.

ARTICLE XVII.

This convention shall be ratified by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, by His Britannic Majesty, by His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan, and by His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias; and ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington as soon as practicable.

In faith whereof, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed this convention in quadruplicate and have hereunto affixed their seals.

Done at Washington the seventh day of July, in the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven.

CHARLES NAGEL,	[L.S.]
CHANDLER P. ANDERSON,	[L.S.]
JAMES BRYCE,	[L.S.]
JOSEPH POPE,	[L.S.]
Y. UCHIDA,	[L.S.]
H. DAUKE,	[L.S.]
P. BOTKINE,	[L.S.]
NOLDE.	[L.S.]

No. 2.

*From H. M. Ambassador at Washington to the Governor General.*

No. 34.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, January 22, 1909.

MY LORD,—

I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a letter I have just received from the Secretary of State of the United States relating to a suggested conference on the subject of Pelagic Sealing in the North Pacific Ocean.

In former despatches I have conveyed to you the suggestions or proposals bearing on this subject which the United States Government have several times made. On each occasion I have replied that so far as I knew the mind of Your Excellency's Ministers, I believed they would be disposed to view with favour the proposal for a conference, but that in their view any suggestion for the discontinuance of pelagic sealing ought to be accompanied by the offer to Canada of compensation, should she consent to forego for any space of time her right of taking seals at sea. The United States Government have offered, as you are aware, to give to Canada a share of all skins taken on the Pribiloff Islands where their seals are captured. I have latterly told them that the Canadian Government hold some pecuniary compensation ought to be paid to Canada in consideration of a discontinuance (should that be



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arranged) of sealing by her British Columbia vessels for any period. The United States Government have continued to reply to this remark by saying that they could not pay any such compensation without exposing themselves to similar claims to compensation from Russia and Japan in respect of the sealing vessels belonging to those countries; and have latterly argued that the United States Congress would not and could not be expected to appropriate any money for the purposes of such compensation, considering that the seal herd has now so much reduced in size as to be of practically no commercial value. The concession to a commercial company is now expiring and will not be renewed, so that they could not (so they inform me) require any company profiting by the taking of seals to make compensation out of what it might receive. Under these circumstances they adhere to their proposal to meet the demands of Canada by a share of the skins taken on land. I have suggested, without of course committing your Government in any way, that they might think of capitalizing what that share might be during a term of years and offer to Canada such capitalized sum as compensation; but they do not seem to think that any plan of that kind could be carried out.

The Governments of Russia and Japan have, it is understood, already been conferring with one another on this question of so reducing or suspending seal-taking as to save what remains of the herd; and I gather that it is the fact that the herd will really disappear within a few years if pelagic sealing continues to be carried on.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

JAMES BRYCE.

His Excellency  
The Right Honourable  
The EARL GREY, G.C.M.G.,  
The Governor General,  
etc., etc., etc.

Enclosure in No. 2.

*From the U. S. Secretary of State to H. M. Ambassador at Washington.*

Serial No. 500.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

WASHINGTON, January 21, 1909.

EXCELLENCY,

I desire to bring to your attention the question of the protection and preservation of the fur seal herds frequenting the waters of the North Pacific Ocean, including the Seas of Behring, Okhotsk and Kamchatka.

It appears from the official reports of observations made under the authority of this Government, that as recently as the year 1891 the seal herd, having its breeding ground on the Pribiloff Islands in Behring Sea, numbered upwards of one million seals, and that since then it has steadily decreased in size until at the present time its total number is estimated to be less than one hundred and fifty thousand. A proportionate decrease is understood to have taken place in the size of the Japanese and Russian seal herds frequenting Robben Island and the Commander Islands.

The ineffectiveness of the protective regulations and conditions imposed under the award of the Fur Seal Arbitration Tribunal at Paris in 1893 upon pelagic sealing



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by American and British sealers is no doubt due in part to their lack of application to pelagic sealing carried on under the flags of other nations; but it is also true that in their practical application they have proved to be not well devised for securing for the seals the protection which was intended. It is also evident from the rapidly diminishing size of the Japanese and Russian herds that the protection afforded to those herds by existing regulations is inadequate to prevent their destruction so far as their value for commercial purposes is concerned.

As a result of scientific investigation and study of the subject for a number of years this Government is strongly of the opinion that any permanent solution of this difficult question should include an international agreement absolutely prohibiting pelagic sealing; but whatever may be the degree and kind of protection essential for the preservation of the seals, it would seem to be no longer open to question that if the present methods of seal hunting are persisted in for a few years longer, the fur seals will be practically exterminated.

Inasmuch, therefore, as the Governments of Great Britain, Japan, Russia and the United States are those chiefly concerned in the sealing industry and chiefly interested in the protection of the seals, and as their occurrence is essential to the successful establishment and enforcement of protective regulations, I have the honour to propose to your Government and I am proposing at the same time to the Government of Japan and Russia, that they join with the Government of the United States in arranging either for a conference or a joint commission to consider and endeavour to agree upon some course of action for the protection and preservation of the seals.

The Government of the United States has been made aware by information kindly communicated by representatives of the different powers to whom this proposal is made of their interest in the subject and of their desire for a solution of the problem of the preservation of seal life, and this note is regarded by the Government of the United States more as a suggestion with a view of giving form to the purposes which are understood to be held in common by the different powers, than as an original opening of a new subject.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

ELIHU ROOT.

His Excellency,

The Right Honourable JAMES BRYCE, O.M.,  
Ambassador of Great Britain.

### No. 3.

*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General.*

Canada.

No. 78.

DOWNING STREET, February 6, 1909.

MY LORD,—With reference to my despatch No. 742 of December 9 last,\* I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency, for the consideration of your Ministers copy of a letter from the Foreign Office on the subject of the preservation of the seal fisheries in the Behring Sea.



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2. I shall be glad to be favoured with an intimation of the views of your Government on this subject at an early date.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

CREWE.

Governor General,

His Excellency,

The Right Honourable,

EARL GREY, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,

&c., &c., &c.

**Enclosure 1 in No. 3.**

*From the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

No. 1063, '09.

FOREIGN OFFICE, January 28, 1909.

SIR,—With reference to the letter from your department of the 9th ultimo, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey, to transmit to you herewith for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg, inclosing correspondence with the Russian Foreign Office relative to the conclusion of a convention to which Great Britain, Russia, the United States and Japan should be parties, with a view to the preservation of the Seal Fisheries in the North Pacific.

Monsieur Tcharykow, who has now made formal proposals on the subject, indicates the points on which he considers amendments of existing arrangements desirable and suggests that His Majesty's government should as a preliminary adhere to the Russo-American Agreement concluded at Washington in 1897. This, as you will doubtless recollect, provided for a total prohibition of sealing in the North Pacific Ocean, but its provisions have remained ineffective in the absence of the adhesion of this country.

The Russian Government are in the meantime ready to instruct their representative at Tokio to keep His Majesty's Ambassador at that capital informed of the progress of the negotiations with the Japanese Government, with a view to the adhesion of His Majesty's Government at a later period to any agreement which may be reached with Japan should it be found satisfactory.

Sir E. Grey would be glad to be favoured with Lord Crewe's observations on these proposals, on which His Lordship will no doubt desire to consult the Canadian Government.

I am, &c.,

LOUIS MALLET.

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office.



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## Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.*

ST. PETERSBURG, January 4, 1909.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit copy of a letter with its inclosure which I have received from Monsieur Tcharykow relative to the measures which might be taken for the preservation of the seal fisheries, and stating the views of the Russian Government as to the convention which might be concluded between the Governments of Great Britain, Russia, the United States and Japan.

I also beg leave to transmit copy of a letter which I wrote to Monsieur Tcharykow on the 28th ultimo, and to which he refers in his communication.

I have, &c.,

A. NICHOLSON.

Sir E. GREY, Bart., M.P.,  
&c., &c., &c.

## Enclosure 3 in No. 3.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg to Russian Asst. Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

ST. PETERSBURG, December 15/28, 1908.

Dear Monsieur TCHARYKOW,—You may remember that in October last we spoke as to the protection of the seal fisheries, and you were then good enough to informally express the hope that it would be found possible to hold a conference for the purpose of laying down such provisions as recent experience has shown to be necessary for the preservation of an industry which, if matters are left as they are, will probably shortly cease to exist. I am now in a position to tell you that His Majesty's Government would consider with pleasure any proposals which the Russian Government may be disposed to make with a view of arranging a more general agreement on the subject of sealing.

If you would like to see me on the subject I would be happy to call on you any time which may be most convenient to you.

Yours, &c.,

A. NICHOLSON.

His Excellency,  
Monsieur Tcharykow.

## Enclosure 4 in No. 3.

*Russian Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs to His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg.*

ST. PETERSBURG, le 22 décembre 1908.

4 janvier 1909

Mon cher Ambassadeur,—En réponse à la lettre de Votre Excellence en date du 15/28 décembre courant, je m'empresse de constater que le Gouvernement Impérial



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a toujours pris à cœur la tâche qui lui incombait, comme à l'un des possesseurs de phoques à fourrures (otaries), de veiller à la préservation de cette espèce précieuse. Il est par conséquent tout disposé aujourd'hui, comme par le passé, à s'entendre avec les Puissances intéressées, dans le but d'élaborer des mesures internationales efficaces pour empêcher la destruction définitive de l'industrie en question.

Les négociations à ce sujet ayant abouti à la signature à Washington de la Convention du 24 octobre (6 novembre) 1897, dont je joins ci-après copie, ce sont les décisions de cette conférence qui devraient à notre avis, servir aujourd'hui de point de départ aux pourparlers ultérieurs.

Votre Excellence n'ignore certes pas que les stipulations arrêtées et signées à la Conférence de Washington par la Russie, les Etats-Unis et le Japon, restent sans exécution en attendant que la dite convention obtienne l'approbation de l'Angleterre. Il paraîtrait donc désirable et pratique que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, étant actuellement animé du désir de coopérer à la préservation de l'industrie des phoques à fourrures, signe la Convention de Washington précitée, afin que les mesures arrêtées par celle-ci puissent immédiatement entrer en vigueur et sauvegarder, pendant au moins la saison de chasse qui va s'ouvrir, et sans préjuger des résultats des négociations qui vont avoir lieu, les intérêts de l'industrie en question. Les amendements qu'il serait désirable d'introduire dans le texte de la Convention de Washington, lors des prochaines négociations, devraient surtout porter sur les deux points suivants:—

1. Le terme de la Convention à signer par la Russie, la Grande-Bretagne, le Japon et les Etats-Unis devrait être étendu à une durée d'au moins cinq ans, avec réconduction tacite de ce terme si la convention n'était pas dénoncée par un des signataires;

2. Il serait utile d'ajouter à la convention une clause précisant les droits et devoirs des croiseurs des Puissances signataires, qui auraient surpris un navire se livrant à la chasse illicite des phoques à fourrure. Une stipulation dans ce sens est contenue dans l'article 2 de notre accord à ce sujet avec la Grande-Bretagne de 1893.

Je n'ai pas besoin d'ajouter qu'il est désirable, en outre, que la convention contienne un article admettant l'adhésion à cette entente de toutes les autres Puissances qui voudraient s'y joindre.

Le Gouvernement de Japon a fait savoir au Gouvernement Impérial qu'il n'a pas d'objection à entrer avec lui dans les négociations que celui-ci lui avait proposées concernant la conclusion d'une convention pour la sauvegarde de l'industrie des otaries dans le nord du Pacifique et la Mer de Behring. Ces négociations vont prochainement s'ouvrir à Tokio, et nous serions prêts à donner l'ordre à l'Ambassadeur de Russie au Japon de tenir ses collègues de Grande-Bretagne et des Etats-Unis au courant de la marche de ses pourparlers. Ainsi, aussitôt que les termes d'une convention, acceptable pour les représentants à Tokio, de la Russie, de la Grande-Bretagne, et des Etats-Unis, ainsi que pour le Gouvernement Japonais, auraient été élaborés, une convention pourrait être signée simultanément à Tokio, avec le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères du Japon par les représentants des Puissances intéressées et qui ne serait autre que la Convention de Washington précitée développée dans le sens indiqué plus haut. D'après les renseignements officiels que nous possédons, le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis est, de son côté très désireux d'aboutir à la conclusion d'une entente avec la Russie, la Grande-Bretagne et le Japon sur la meilleure manière d'empêcher la destruction des otaries.

En portant ce qui précède à Votre connaissance, je vous serai très obligé de vouloir bien informer le Ministère Impérial des Affaires Etrangères, si votre Gouvernement est disposé à donner à son Ambassadeur à Tokio des instructions dans le



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sens esquissé plus haut. En attendant, nous aimons à espérer que, vu le contenu de votre lettre du 15/26 décembre a.c., le Gouvernement Britannique trouvera possible de signer la Convention de Washington, ce qui assurerait une force légale à ses stipulations pendant au moins l'année 1909.

Veuillez, &c.,

TCHARYKOW.

Son Excellence,

Sir A. Nicolson,  
&c., &c., &c.

### Enclosure 5 in No. 3.

*AGREEMENT between Russia, the United States and Japan for the preservation of the fur seals. Signed at Washington, on November 6, 1897.*

The representatives of Russia, the United States and Japan assembled in conference to consider the best means of preserving the fur seals and sea otter in the North Pacific Ocean and Behring Sea, having determined that under existing regulations these animals are threatened with extinction, and that an international agreement of all the interested powers is necessary for their adequate protection, the governments of Russia, the United States and Japan have resolved to conclude a convention with a view to bringing about such an International Agreement, and have appointed as their respective Plenipotentiaries to wit:—

His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, Grégoire de Wolland, Chargé d'Affaires and Councillor of State and Pierre Botkins, Gentleman in Waiting of His Court and Councillor of Court:—

The President of the United States—John W. Foster, Charles S. Hamlin and David Starr Jordan;

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan—Shongoi Shiro Fujita, of the fourth order of the Rising Sun, Director of Agricultural Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and Jugoi, Kakichi Mitsukuri, Rigakuhakushi, of the sixth order of the Sacred Treasure, Professor of the College of Science in the Imperial University of Tokio.

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following articles:—

### ARTICLE I.

The High Contracting Parties agree to prohibit their respective subjects and citizens from killing the fur seal and sea otter in all waters of the North Pacific Ocean, including the Seas of Behring, Okhotsk and Kamtchatka, outside of territorial limits, for the period of one year from the date of this Convention, and they will use their best efforts to make this prohibition effective against their respective subjects and citizens.

### ARTICLE II.

The present Convention shall take effect as soon as the adhesion of the Government of Great Britain shall be given thereto.



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The Convention shall be ratified by the respective Governments and the several ratifications thereof shall be exchanged on a day hereafter to be agreed upon as soon as possible at the city of Washington.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have hereunto affixed their signatures and seals.

Done in triplicate in the English language at the city of Washington, this sixth day of November, in the year 1897.

No. 4.

*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General.*

Telegram.

LONDON, March 27, 1909.

Please inform your Ministers that His Majesty's Government are anxious for expression of the views of your Government on proposal contained in inclosure of my despatch No. 78.\* It is important that there should be no avoidable delay.

CREWE.

\*No. 3.

No. 5.

*From the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

Telegram.

OTTAWA, March 29, 1909.

In answer to your telegram March 27, Minister adhere to position that they are ready to enter into agreement for suspension of pelagic sealing on condition that compensation will be given to Canadian sealers by United States, who are owners of Pribiloff and other islands known as seal rookeries.

GREY.

No. 6.

*From the Governor General to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.*

Telegram.

OTTAWA, April 10, 1909.

In answer to your telegram April 10, following telegram sent to Secretary of State for Colonies, March 29, begins:—

In answer to your telegram March 27, Ministers adhere to position that they are ready to enter into agreement for suspension of pelagic sealing on condition that compensation will be given to Canadian sealers by United States, who are owners of Pribiloff and other islands known as seal rookeries.

GREY.



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## No. 7.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Governor General.*

Telegram.

WASHINGTON, February 16, 1911.

Following sent to Foreign Office to-day:—

## No. 28.

At the earliest convenience of participating powers. United States government propose to arrange conference at Washington. Date will probably depend on Japan. In the formal invitation. United States Government wish to refer to acceptance by all the powers of proposal made in their note of January 21, 1909.\* Russia and Japan seem to have accepted that proposal; we, of course, have not pending conclusion of our treaty. Am I authorized to accept proposal formally?

Two delegates, with experts, will be invited by United States Government from each power, but experts will not participate in proceedings.

Repeated to Canada.

BRYCE.

\*See enclosure in No. 2.

## No. 8.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Governor General.*

Telegram.

WASHINGTON, February 25, 1911.

Pelagic Sealing. My telegram to Foreign Office, February 16. His Majesty's Government accept form of proposed conference in view of assent of Canadian Government. United States Government will be notified and date of conference telegraphed as soon as known.

BRYCE.

## No. 9.

*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General.*

Telegram.

LONDON, February 28, 1911.

Understand that British Ambassador has communicated with you with regard to proposed arrangement of conference between Great Britain, Japan, Russia, and United States as to Pelagic Sealing.

I shall be glad if you will communicate views of your Government to Bryce at earliest possible opportunity and send me copy of your telegram to him.

HARCOURT.



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No. 10.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Governor General.*

No. 38 A.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, March 9, 1911.

MY LORD,—With reference to recent correspondence concerning the conference which it is proposed to call at an early date in Washington, at which Great Britain, the United States, Russia and Japan should concert measures for the preservation of the fur seals, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Note from the United States Government formally inviting His Majesty's Government to be represented at the conference.

It is the intention of His Majesty's Government to be represented by two delegates as suggested by the invitation and they have done me the honour to propose that I should act as first British delegate. I understand that the Dominion Government will be invited to appoint the second delegate.

Besides the delegates who will represent the Governments concerned and be responsible for the proceedings it is anticipated that it may be thought proper to send experts to advise these delegates on technical matters, who will however not participate in the proceedings unless especially invited by the conference. It seems likely that His Majesty's Government will send two experts in the business of preparing and marketing sealskins.

In regard to the inclusion in the discussion of measures for the preservation of other species it seems likely that this proposal will recommend itself to your Ministers as tending to give the conference a character of general conservation of valuable species rather than that of especial restriction of the pelagic sealing industry. Moreover, it would seem to be a proposal worthy of every encouragement on general, industrial, scientific, and humanitarian grounds.

I enclose some official information as to the measures already taken in the States of the Union with this object, which may be of interest in this connection.

I have, &c.

JAMES BRYCE.

The Governor General,

His Excellency

The Right Honourable,

The EARL GREY, G.C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

Enclosure in No. 10.

*From the U.S. Secretary of State to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

WASHINGTON, March 3, 1911.

EXCELLENCY,—I have the honour to bring to your attention the proposal herewith made by the United States to the Governments of Great Britain, Japan, and Russia, that they unite with this Government in the adoption of measures for the protection and preservation of the fur-seal herds frequenting the waters of the North Pacific Ocean, including the Seas of Behring, Okhotsk and Kamchatka.



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A note on this subject was addressed by this Department to you on January 21, 1909,\* calling attention to the ineffectiveness of the protective regulations and conditions imposed under the award of the Fur-Seal Arbitration Tribunal in 1893 upon pelagic sealing by American and British sealers, and to the rapidly diminishing size of the Russian and Japanese herds as evidence that the protection afforded to those herds by existing regulations was inadequate to prevent their destruction so far as their value for commercial purposes is concerned. Inasmuch as it appeared that Great Britain, Japan, Russia and the United States are the Powers chiefly concerned in the sealing industry and interested in the protection of the seals, and as their concurrence was regarded as essential to the successful establishment and enforcement of the protective regulations, this Government proposed to them that they join with them in arranging for a conference to consider and endeavor to agree upon some course of action for the protection and preservation of the seals.

In reply to this note, the Department had the honour to receive from you a Note under date of February 27, 1911, stating that His Britannic Majesty's Government are now prepared to accept the proposal conveyed in the department's note above referred to that a conference of the Governments of Great Britain, Japan, Russia, and the United States be arranged to consider measures for the preservation of the fur-seal, in the North Pacific Ocean.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to inform you that the Governments of Japan and Russia have assented to the proposal and express their willingness to join with the other powers mentioned in the proposed conference.

I have the honour, therefore, to extend to His Britannic Majesty's Government an invitation to participate with the Governments of Japan, Russia, and the United States in a conference to be held in Washington as soon after the first of next month as may suit the convenience of all concerned, for the purpose of considering and endeavouring to agree upon some course of action for the protection and preservation of the fur-seals. The Department has already expressed the opinion in the note above referred to that any permanent solution of this difficult question should include an international agreement absolutely prohibiting pelagic sealing, and further investigation and study of the subject has served to strengthen and confirm the opinion then expressed; but, as stated in that note, whatever may be the degree and kind of protection essential for the preservation of the seals, it would seem to be no longer open to question that if the present methods of seal hunting are persisted in for a few years longer the fur-seals will be practically exterminated.

In addition to the protection of the fur-seals, it is the desire of this Government, if agreeable to the other Governments participating in this conference, to bring up for consideration the question of the adoption of an international game law to protect sea otter and other animals of the sea, and also to protect plumage birds and their breeding grounds.

A similar invitation has been addressed to the Governments of Japan and Russia.

I have the honour to request that you convey to your government the earnest desire of the President that it participate in the proposed conference, and send such number of delegates as it may deem proper, with authority to conclude a treaty for the purpose proposed. It may be convenient for you to know that the present intention of this Government is to be represented by two delegates.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency

P. C. KNOX.

The Right Honourable

JAMES BRYCE, O.M.,

*Ambassador of Great Britain.*

\*See enclosure in No. 2.



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No. 11.

*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General.*

[Telegram.]

LONDON, March 10, 1911.

My telegram of the 28th February. Understand Bryce is sending your Government formal invitation to Conference on Sealing. Hope your Government will consent to discussion by Conference of measures for protection of sea-otters, feather birds, and possibly other interesting and valuable species.

HARCOURT.

No. 12.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Governor General.*

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, March 21, 1911.

United States Government have proposed May 18th for date of meeting of Pelagic Sealing Conference. I suggested first week in May as probably more convenient and United States Government were willing, but Japanese Government, I learn, cannot conveniently advance date.

His Majesty's Government will no doubt communicate with you as I have reported the above to them.

BRYCE.

No. 13.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Governor General.*

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, March 27, 1911.

Have sent following to Foreign Office to-day:—

“Pelagic Sealing Conference. My telegram No. 44 Japanese Ambassador here having now been appointed delegate of Japanese Government at Conference, he is willing that first meeting should be fixed for May 10th or May 11th, on the understanding that no important business be taken up before the arrival of other Japanese delegate about 17th May. Russian agreeable. May I suggest to United States Government as opening day May 10 or May 11th? They are willing to meet about that date. Repeated to Canada.”

BRYCE.



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## No. 14.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Governor General.*

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, March 31, 1911.

Pelagic Sealing. Following sent to Foreign Office to-day:—

“No. 49. Your telegram No. 90; United States Government are now preparing programme of proceedings and it will be cabled to you.

“It is only proposed to deal with Sea-otters and Walrus in North Pacific and merely to discuss generally and possibly make recommendations *ad referendum* in regard to any species outside North Pacific.

“I should be glad of any data regarding these from you.

“An early reply as to acceptance of date of Conference would be liked by United States Government. Japan, Russia and United States are all disposed to May 10th. Repeated to Canada.”

BRYCE.

## No. 15.

*From the Governor General to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.*

[Telegram.]

OTTAWA, April 4, 1911.

Pelagic Sealing. Following sent to Colonial Office to-day:—

“Your telegram of 27th March and previous telegrams, Pelagic Sealing; my Ministers have no objection to immediate ratification of Treaty with United States. They are prepared to join in International Conference and agree to date proposed for first meeting, viz., 10th May or 11th May. They concur in suggestion that question of preservation and protection of Sea-otters be included in scope of discussion of Conference. Despatch follows. Repeated to Ambassador, Washington.”

GREY.

## No. 16.

*Certified copy of a Report of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 5th April, 1911.*

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated 29th March, 1911, from the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to whom was referred certain despatches, hereto annexed, from the Right Honourable the Principal Secre-



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tary of State for the Colonies, and His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington, touching the recent agreement with the United States for the temporary suspension of Pelagic Sealing, under which it is proposed that an International Conference shall meet at Washington to discuss measures for the preservation of the seal species in the North Pacific Ocean.

The Minister states that Your Excellency's Advisers see no objection to the immediate ratification of this Treaty by His Majesty, and he recommends that the Secretary of State for the Colonies may be so informed by telegraph.

The Minister further states that the Canadian Government are prepared to join in the International Congress above referred to, and that the date suggested in Mr. Bryce's despatch of the 27th March for the first meeting—the 10th or 11th May—is agreeable to them.

The Minister observes that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries concurs in the suggestion that the question of the preservation and protection of sea-otters might advantageously be included in the scope of the discussions of the Conference. As to the necessity for a like arrangement for the protection of feathered birds and other interesting and valuable species, he is not at the moment, owing to lack of data, in a position to express a definite opinion.

The Committee, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, advise that Your Excellency may be pleased to forward a copy hereof to the Right Honourable the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, and to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.

All which is respectfully submitted for approval.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,

*Clerk of the Privy Council.*

**No. 17.**

*From the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

Canada.

No. 209.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA, April 11, 1911.

SIR,—With reference to my telegram of the 4th instant regarding the ratification of the treaty with the United States for the suspension of Pelagic Sealing, I have the honour to transmit, herewith, for your information, copies of an Approved Minute of His Majesty's Privy Council for Canada, upon which my telegram was based.

I have, &c.,

GREY.

The Right Honourable

LEWIS V. HARCOURT, M.P.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Similar despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington No. 34, April 8, 1911.)



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## No. 18.

*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General.*

[Telegram.]

LONDON, April 12, 1911.

Your telegram of the 4th April.\* You will have learned from Bryce's despatch 38A, of 9th March†, that His Majesty's Government propose to be represented by two delegates at the Conference and that he will be first delegate.

His Majesty's Government will be glad if your Ministers will nominate person to act as second British delegate.

If your Ministers see no objection His Majesty's Government will be glad if nomination could be made at earliest possible date.

HARCOURT.

\* No. 15.

† No. 16.

## No. 19.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Governor General.*

No. 60.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, April 18, 1911.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of a despatch which I have this day addressed to His Majesty's Government enclosing copy of a note from the United States Government, submitting a programme for the discussions of the International Conference on Pelagic Sealing, which is to meet in Washington next month.

I have, &amp;c.,

JAMES BRYCE.

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

The EARL GREY, G.C.M.G.,

&amp;c., &amp;c., &amp;c.,

The Governor General.

## Enclosure 1 in No. 19.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.*

No. 117.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, April 18, 1911.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit copies of a semi-official note received to-day from the Councillor to the State Department, submitting the proposals of the United



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States Government in regard to the International Convention for the preservation and protection of Fur Seals, which it is proposed to discuss at the Conference to be opened in Washington on May 11. A summary of these proposals has been cabled to you to-day.

It will be observed that the proposals follow pretty closely the provisions of the Treaty recently concluded with His Majesty's Government, diverging from them only in such matters as the area of prohibition and provision for the adherence of other Powers, and this for obvious reasons. It will also be observed that proposal 8 revives the original draft of the aforesaid Treaty as discussed last year.

No mention is made in these proposals of measures for the preservation of other species, and I will take an early opportunity of inquiring in what form the United States Government propose to bring these ancillary matters before the Conference.

I have, &c.,

JAMES BRYCE.

The Right Honourable

Sir EDWARD GREY, Bart., M.P.,

&c., &c., &c.

## Enclosure 2 in No. 19.

*From the United States Department of State to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

WASHINGTON, April 15, 1911.

MY DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR,— In compliance with my recent promise to send you at an early date an expression of the views of the United States as to the provisions which should be included in the proposed International Convention for the preservation and protection of the Fur Seals, I enclose a series of propositions which express those views and which in substantially the form now presented will be submitted on the part of the United States for the consideration of the Fur Seal Conference to be held here next month.

I take pleasure in informing you that the suggestion that the first meeting of the Conference be held on Thursday, the eleventh day of May, which has already been approved by you, has now proved to be acceptable to all the Governments concerned.

I am, &c.,

CHANDLER P. ANDERSON.

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

JAMES BRYCE, O.M.,

Ambassador of Great Britain.

## Enclosure 3 in No. 19.

*Propositions showing substantially the views of the United States as to provisions which should be included in the proposed International Convention for the preservation and protection of the Fur Seals.*

1. That the citizens and subjects respectively of the Parties to the Convention, and all persons subject to their laws and treaties, and their vessels, be prohibited



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from engaging in Pelagic Sealing in the waters of the North Pacific Ocean, north of the thirty-fifth parallel of North Latitude, and including the Seas of Behring Okhotsk and Kamchatka.

2. That every such person and vessel offending against such prohibition may be seized, except within the territorial jurisdiction of another Power, and detained by the naval or other duly commissioned officers of any of the Parties to this Convention, to be delivered as soon as practicable to an authorized official of the nation to which they belong, at the nearest port to the place of seizure or elsewhere, as may be mutually agreed upon; and that the authorities of the nation to which such person or vessel belongs alone shall have jurisdiction to try the offence and impose the penalties for the same; and that the witnesses and proofs necessary to establish the offence so far as they are under the control of any of the Parties to this Convention shall also be furnished with all reasonable promptitude to the proper authority having jurisdiction to try the offence.

3. That each of the Parties to this Convention shall prohibit the use of any of its ports by any persons for any purposes whatsoever connected with the operations of Pelagic Sealing in the waters mentioned.

4. That each of the Parties to this Convention shall prohibit the importation of or bringing into its territory any Fur Seal skins which have not been taken under its authority and within its territorial jurisdiction or within the territorial jurisdiction and under the authority of any other Power to this Convention

5. That the Parties to this Convention undertake to enact and enforce such legislation with appropriate penalties as may be necessary to make effective the foregoing provisions.

6. That an exception be made exempting from the application of the foregoing provisions Indians or other aborigines dwelling on the coasts of the waters mentioned who carry on Pelagic Sealing in canoes, not transported by or used in connection with other vessels, and propelled entirely by paddles, oars or sails, and manned by not more than five persons each, in the way hitherto practised and without the use of firearms; provided that such aborigines are not in the employment of other persons nor under contract to deliver the skins to any person.

7. That each of the Parties to this Convention shall maintain a guard or patrol in the waters frequented by the seal herd in the protection of which it has a special interest, so far as may be necessary for the enforcement of the foregoing provisions.

8. That the Parties to this Convention agree that the foregoing provisions shall be extended so as to effectively protect within an area to be agreed upon Fur Seals whose breeding ground belong to any Power which, by adherence to this Convention or otherwise, shall agree with the signatory Parties to make the foregoing provisions applicable to its own citizens or subjects.

9. That appropriate provisions be made in the Convention for the subsequent adherence to it by other Powers

10. That the signatory Parties agree to co-operate in endeavouring to secure the adherence of other Powers to this Convention of the adoption and enforcement by them of prohibitions against Pelagic Sealing by their own citizens or subjects in any of the waters covered by this Convention, and of the use of their ports and flag in the furtherance of Pelagic Sealing within such waters.

11. That the term 'Pelagic Sealing' be defined for the purpose of this Convention as meaning the killing, capturing, or pursuing in any manner whatsoever Fur Seals at sea outside territorial waters.

12. That the period fixed for the duration of the Convention be sufficiently long to test its effectiveness as a means of protecting and preserving the Fur Seals; and that at any time after the expiration of such period each party shall be at liberty to withdraw from the Convention by giving one year's written notice to each of the remaining Parties.



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No. 20.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Governor General.*

No. 61.

BRITISH EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON, April 20, 1911.

MY LORD,—In my despatch No. 60 of the 18th I had the honour to submit to the Dominion Government the programme proposed by the United States Government for the proceedings at the conference on Pelagic Sealing which is to meet in Washington on May 11.

The question having been raised by His Majesty's Government as to whether there was any inconsistency between the last clause of the programme as to the period of duration of the International Agreement and Article VI of the Treaty recently signed between His Majesty's Government and the United States Government which predicates a period for the agreement of fifteen years, the point was raised to-day in conversation with the State Department. Mr. Anderson who is in charge of the matter said that after consideration it had been thought more proper to propose a general principle rather than a definite period, but that it was the intention of the United States Government to have fifteen years adopted in application of that principle and that Russia and Japan were aware of this and had raised no objection.

On my inquiring as to the reason for the absence of any reference in the programme to the protection of other species I was informed that the United States Government not being prepared with any specific proposals in regard to them had thought better to leave these matters out of the formal programme. He thought we might perhaps usefully exchange views, especially regarding protection of plumage birds but that any results arrived at should be merely suggestions *ad referendum*.

In regard to publication of our treaty, Mr. Anderson said that the United States Government attached importance to its not being published before the conference. It had been communicated to the Russian and Japanese Governments in confidence.

I have, &c..

JAMES BRYCE.

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

The EARL GREY, G.C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

The Governor General.

No. 21.

*From the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

OTTAWA, April 27, 1911.

Telegram.

Your telegram April 12. My Government nominate Mr. Joseph Pope, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, to act as second British Delegate at International Sealing Conference at Washington.

GREY.



## No. 22.

*Certified Copy of a Report of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on May 2, 1911.*

The committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated April 27, 1911, from the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to whom was referred a telegraphic despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated April 12, 1911, acquainting Your Excellency that His Majesty's Government have appointed the Right Honourable James Bryce, O.M., to act as first British delegate at the approaching International Sealing Conference shortly to be held at Washington and inviting the Government of Canada to nominate the second delegate.

The Minister submits the name of Mr. Joseph Pope, C.V.O., Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, for the position of second British delegate at this conference.

The Minister further recommends, with the concurrence of the Ministers of Mines and of Marine and Fisheries, respectively, that Mr. James Macoun, Assistant Naturalist and Botanist of the Geological Survey Branch of the Department of Mines; Mr. W. A. Found, Acting Superintendent of Fisheries, and Captain Charles I. Harris, of Victoria, B.C., be detailed to accompany Mr. Pope to Washington as experts in the subjects to be discussed at the conference.

The committee advise that Your Excellency may be pleased to inform the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies and His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington by telegraph in the above sense.

All of which is respectfully submitted for approval.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,

*Clerk of the Privy Council.*

## No. 23.

*From the Governor General to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.*

Telegram.

OTTAWA, May 3, 1911.

Following telegraphed to Colonial Office to-day:—

'My telegram April 27. International Sealing Conference. Joseph Pope, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs appointed as second British delegate. Minute of Council to-day appoints James Macoun, Assistant Naturalist and Botanist of Geological Survey; Captain Charles I. Harris, of Victoria, British Columbia, and W. A. Found, Acting Superintendent of Fisheries, to accompany Mr. Pope as expert.'

GREY.



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No. 24.

*From the Governor General to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.*

No. 45.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
OTTAWA, May 4, 1911.

SIR,—With reference to my telegram of the 3rd instant, on the subject of the appointment of Mr. Joseph Pope, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, as second British delegate at the International Sealing Conference shortly to be held at Washington, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for Your Excellency's information, copies of an Approved Minute of His Majesty's Privy Council for Canada,\* upon which my telegram was based

I have, &c.,

GREY.

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

JAMES BRYCE, P.C.,

&c., &c., &c.

\* No. 22.

No. 25.

*From the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

Canada.

No. 276.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
OTTAWA, May 8, 1911.

SIR,—With reference to my telegram of the 3rd instant on the subject of the appointment of Mr. Joseph Pope, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, as second British delegate at the International Sealing Conference shortly to be held at Washington, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, copies of an Approved Minute of His Majesty's Privy Council for Canada,\* upon which my telegram was based.

I have, &c.,

GREY.

The Right Honourable

LEWIS V. HARCOURT, M.P.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

\* No. 22.

No. 26.

*From the First Minister to the Canadian Delegate, International Fur Seal Conference.*

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, CANADA,  
OTTAWA, May 8, 1911.

SIR,—The Governor in Council having designated you as the Canadian delegate to the International Conference shortly to meet at Washington with a view to



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concerting measures for the protection and preservation of the fur seal in the North Pacific Ocean, I think it well to address to you a few confidential observations for your general guidance.

Canada having, by the separate Treaty recently entered into with the United States, accepted the principle involved in assenting to a temporary cessation of pelagic sealing within a circumscribed area, in return for a pecuniary consideration, your attitude towards proposals for an extension of this arrangement to cover the Asiatic side of the North Pacific Ocean, should be that taken in the prior negotiations, namely, that Canada is prepared to abstain from the exercise of her undoubted right, only in return for an adequate consideration.

You will not fail to impress upon the members of the Conference that Canada's relation towards this differs essentially from that of the United States, Russia, and Japan. They, as rookery-owning powers, are naturally desirous to suppress sealing at sea, and thereby enhance the value of their property on land. Canada's interests, on the other hand, lie wholly in the ocean. Any general agreement between the powers for the suppression of pelagic sealing should therefore provide for the admission of Canada to a share in the land-take on the Russian and Japanese islands. You are aware that in a Conference between Russia and Canada which took place in London in 1904, the Russian Government, through its representative, formally declared itself willing to join the United States in making such compensation to Canada.

You will keep me fully informed of the course of the discussions, and of the progress of events.

Before agreeing to any arrangement of a binding character, you will communicate to me the proposals in which you are invited to concur, and await instructions from this Government.

You are at liberty to show this letter to Mr. Bryce.

I have, &c.,

WILFRID LAURIER.

JOSEPH POPE, Esq., C.V.O.,

Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.  
Ottawa.

### No. 27.

*Certified Copy of a Report of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on May 10, 1911.*

The Committee of the Privy Council, on the recommendation of the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, advise that the name of Captain Wm. D. Byers be substituted for that of Captain Charles I. Harris, as one of the experts to accompany the British delegate to Washington in connection with the approaching International Sealing Conference shortly to be held in that city, and that the Order in Council of May 2, 1911, appointing Captain Harris, be amended accordingly.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,

*Clerk of the Privy Council.*

### No. 28.

*Certified Copy of a Report of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 10th May, 1911.*

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated April 29, 1911, from the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to whom was referred



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despatches from His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington, dated respectively April 18 and 20, 1911, with reference to the programme proposed by the United States Government for the proceedings at the International Conference on Pelagic Sealing shortly to meet at Washington.

The Minister desires to express his regret at the reconsideration by the United States Government of their proposal to include sea otters within the scope of the discussions of the conference, for the reason that, in his view, the comprehension of sea otters in any prohibitive arrangement that may be reached, would facilitate the endorsement of regulations interdicting the killing of fur seals.

The minister also desires to recall the fact that in June, 1909, three Canadian vessels, fitted out for the capture of sea otters during the close season for seals, were boarded by officers of the United States Revenue Cutter *Bear*, who sealed up their implements of chase, thus rendering it impossible for them to prosecute the object of their voyage. If, while pursuit of seals is forbidden, that of sea otters remains lawful, there is reason to apprehend that similar complications may arise in future, which, in the interests of the sealing arrangement concluded with the United States, it would be desirable to avoid. Moreover, sea otters largely frequent the islands to which the seals resort, and there is nothing to prevent Canadians, as well as other sea otter hunting vessels, from carrying on their operations up to the limit of territorial waters. Such operations would necessarily result in much disturbance of the seals, even if they were not hunted, and thus could not but be detrimental to the speedy recovery of the number of seals on the rookeries. For these reasons the minister trusts that some arrangement including sea otter may be reached.

The Minister submits—taking up the United States propositions *seriatim*—that the terms of clause 4 are too wide in their scope. He is of opinion that the prohibition of the importation of seal or sea otter skins should be limited to those taken in the waters covered by any arrangements that may be come to between the four Powers, except such skins as may be taken within territorial jurisdiction, and under the authority of any of the parties to this convention.

That proposition No. 7 calls for a clearer definition of the waters which Canada would, under the contemplated arrangements, be called upon to patrol. While the special interests of the United States, Russia, and Japan are limited to the protection of the seal herds frequenting their own rookeries, Canada's interests which lie in Pelagic Sealing alone, are not exclusively confined to any one locality or group of seals. It might therefore be argued that she should be required to do an equal share of patrolling in each of the national spheres of interest—with the United States as regards the Pribyloff herd—with the Russians as respects the commander seals—and with Japan touching those frequenting Robben Island and the Kurile Islands. While Canada would be willing to assume responsibility for her share of patrolling, she should be left free to determine in what waters her patrolling should be carried on at any given time.

That proposition No. 8 is a modified form of the original clause 8 of the United States draft treaty enclosed in Mr. Bryce's despatch of March 26, 1910, and so far as it agrees with that draft, is open to the objections set forth in the Minister's report dated 2nd December, 1910.

The Minister further submits that any agenda paper of this conference should recognize Great Britain's exceptional position as a non-rookery-owning power, by including within the scope of the discussions the question of compensation to Canada for temporarily foregoing Pelagic Sealing in the interests of the powers owning rookeries.

The committee, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, advise that Your Excellency may be pleased to forward a copy hereof to His



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Majesty's Ambassador at Washington and to the Right Honourable the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

All which is respectfully submitted for approval.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU.

*Clerk of the Privy Council.*

### No. 29.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Governor General.*

Telegram.

SEAL HARBOUR, MAINE, July 18, 1911.

Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, South African Confederation, Newfoundland have assented to Sealing Treaty signed July 7.

Have informed United States, Russian and Japanese Embassies that note of July 7 is withdrawn and whole treaty accepted for all British Dominions.

BRYCE.

### No. 30.

*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General.*

Canada.

No. 784.

DOWNING STREET, 21 September, 1911.

MY LORD,—With reference to previous correspondence respecting the Pelagic Sealing Treaty, I have the honour to request that Your Excellency will inform your Ministers that His Majesty's Government have had under consideration the question of the patrol to be undertaken by the four Powers which are party to the Treaty.

2. The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty are prepared to arrange that a vessel of the Imperial Navy shall carry out the patrol in the waters north of 30° N. latitude and east of the meridian of 170° W. longitude until vessels of His Majesty's Canadian Navy are available for carrying out this service. The arrangements for this purpose will be considered subsequently when the vessels are ready.

3. The Lords Commissioners have also suggested that the patrol on the North American side should be shared with the United States Navy, the patrol in the remainder of the North Pacific Ocean being undertaken by Japan and Russia. The area which will form the sphere of operations of the British patrol will practically exclude all Russian territory.

4. The 170th meridian of west longitude excludes from the proposed area of the joint British and United States patrol a large portion of the Aleutian Islands and accordingly His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington has been instructed, in communicating with the United States Government on the question of the patrol, to enquire whether the United States will undertake the patrol of those of the Aleutian Islands which are not included in the joint patrol.

5. His Majesty's Ambassadors to Russia and Japan are being instructed to ascertain from the Government to which they are accredited whether they will arrange to undertake the patrol of the remainder of the North Pacific Ocean.

I have, &c.,

Governor General,

L. HARCOURT.

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

EARL GREY, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,

&c., &c., &c.



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No. 31.

*CERTIFIED copy of a Report of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Royal Highness the Governor General on the 16th October, 1911.*

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated 14th October, 1911, from the Secretary of State for External Affairs, representing that while Article XVI of the Pelagic Sealing Treaty between Great Britain and the United States, signed at Washington on the 7th July, 1911, provides that the Treaty shall come into force on the 15th December, 1911, the Government of Canada have not received any notice that the ratification thereof, as contemplated by Article XVII, has been effected.

The Minister observes that, in the absence of such information, those engaged in pelagic sealing from Canadian ports, in the waters covered by the Treaty, have not been notified of its provisions, and as the vessels usually leave on their sealing voyages in January, they will doubtless quite soon begin to make preparations and to get their vessels into condition for another season's hunting if they are not informed that pelagic sealing in the waters in question will not be allowed.

The Committee, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, advise that Your Royal Highness may be pleased to apprise His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington of these reasons which render it expedient, in view of Your Royal Highness's advisers, that this Treaty should be ratified and the ratifications exchanged at the earliest possible moment.

All which is respectfully submitted for Your Royal Highness's approval.

RODOLPHE BOUNDREAU,

*Clerk of the Privy Council.*

No. 32.

*From the Governor General to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.*

Canada.

No. 103.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

OTTAWA, 19th October, 1911.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit, herewith, for Your Excellency's consideration, copies of an Approved Minute of His Majesty's Privy Council for Canada\* on the subject of the Pelagic Sealing Treaty between Great Britain and the United States, which was signed, at Washington, on the 7th July last.

As Your Excellency is aware, it is provided that this Treaty will come into force on the 15th December next, and my responsible advisers have not received any notice that the ratification thereof has been effected. In view of the fact that the vessels engaged in pelagic sealing usually leave their ports in January my responsible advisers are anxious that the Treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications exchanged at the earliest possible moment.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR.

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

JAMES P. BRYCE, P.C.

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No. 33.

*From the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

Canada.

No. 553.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
OTTAWA, 19th October, 1911.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit, herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington on the subject of the exchange of ratifications of the Pelagic Sealing Treaty between Great Britain and the United States.

I have, &c.,  
ARTHUR.

No. 34.

*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General.*

Reference to previous despatch S. of S. No. 784. 21 September.

Canada.

No. 864.

DOWNING STREET, October 25, 1911.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to Your Royal Highness for the information of your Ministers, the papers noted below on the subject of the Behring Sea Fishery Patrol, 1911.

I have, &c.,  
L. HARCOURT.

The Officer administering  
the Government of  
Canada.

Date.	Description.
1911. 13 October.	from the Admiralty (without track chart).

Enclosure 1 in No. 34.

*From the Admiralty to the Colonial Office.*

M. 15786.

ADMIRALTY, 13th October, 1911.

SIR,—I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy



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of the Report of the Behring Sea Patrol for 1911, which has been received from the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. *Algerine*. A copy has also been sent to the Foreign Office.

I am to request that the track chart, which is forwarded in original, may be sent to the Foreign Office in due course.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAHAM GREENE.

The Under-Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office.

Enclosure 2 in No. 34.

*From O. C. H. M. S. 'Algerine' to Commander in Charge West Coast of America.*

Report of the Behring Sea Patrol, 1911.

H.M.S. *Algerine*.

Lat. 53°31' N.

at Sea

Long. 161°56' W.

4th September, 1911.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that in compliance with your orders I left Esquimalt, B.C., on the 24th July and arrived at Shearwater Bay, Kadiak Island on the 1st August.

2. I sailed for Iliuliuk, Unalaska, on the 5th August and arrived on the 8th August.

3. I found in harbour the U.S.S. *Buffalo*, who had just completed a wireless installation at Dutch Harbour. She left on the 11th August.

4. I completed with coal at Iliuliuk on the 9th August and proceeded to Dutch Harbour the same day.

5. I conferred with Captain Foley, commanding the United States Revenue Cruiser *Fleet*, and was in agreement with him as to the best means of carrying out the Behring Sea Award Act, 1894.

6. The United States Patrolling Fleet this year consisted of the Revenue Cruisers *Manning*, *Tahoma* and *Rush*.

7. I commenced patrolling on the 14th August, proceeding through the S.W. Quadrant of the prohibited area. I called at St. Paul's Island, but was unable to land owing to the swell. I then proceeded to the 60 mile limit of the N.W. Quadrant and followed it throughout the N.W., N.E., and S.E. Quadrants, returning to Dutch Harbour on the 19th August. The Second patrol commenced on the 23rd August, and embraced practically the entire prohibited area terminating at Iliuliuk on the 28th August. I completed with coal the same day, and left to rejoin you on the 31st August.

8. I was informed by Captain Foley that two men declaring themselves to be British subjects were serving on board the Japanese sealer *Matsu Maru*, and another on board the *Koyei Maru*. Such a case does not appear to have been provided for under the Behring Sea Award Act, 1894, and I could find no definite instructions as to the course to be taken had I met either of these schooners sealing within the 60 mile limit; in which event it appears to me that these persons would be contravening the provisions of the Act under the aegis of the Japanese flag.



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9. The behaviour of the Japanese sealers has improved since last season. Only two seizures of boats belonging to them have taken place; one for illegal landing on St. George Island, and the other for sealing within the territorial limit of St. Paul Island.

10. Nothing has so far been seen or heard of the four Canadian schooners licensed for the sealing season 1911.

11. The U. S. Revenue Cruisers have confined their patrolling to the territorial limits of the Pribiloff Islands, as was the case during last season.

12. The grand total of seals killed on the rookeries of St. Paul's and St. George Islands by the U. S. Government this season is 12,139.

13. Up to the 20th August, 23 Japanese sealers have been boarded by the U. S. Revenue Cruisers, their catch in the Behring Sea only being 3,917 skins.

14. In spite of the large increase in the pelagic catch over that of last season at the same date, the U. S. Government have apparently not thought it necessary to materially reduce the kill on the rookeries; and I am still of opinion, as stated in my report of last season, that there is no evidence of any further reduction having taken place in the Behring Sea herd of fur-seals

15. I append the usual track chart and return of vessels boarded.

16. The U. S. officials have shown their customary kindness and courtesy.

I have, &c.,  
A. K. JONES,  
Commander.

The Commander in charge  
West Coast of America.

Date.	Position.	Name.	Flag.	Port.	Remarks.
1911.					
17 Aug.....	57°45N. ... 168°32W.	<i>Hosho Maru</i> ....	Japanese...	Tokio .....	Crew 25 Japanese 30 male and 139 female skins on board.
25 Aug.....	58°1N. .... 170°0W.	<i>Tora Maru</i> ....	Japanese ...	Tokio .....	Crew 24 Japanese 35 male and 165 female skins on board.
25 Aug.....	57°59N. ... 169°50W.	<i>No. 2 Bos Maru</i> .	Japanese ...	Tokio .....	Crew 33 Japanese and 1 Norwegian 594 skins on board.
25 Aug.....	57°46N.... 169°57W.	<i>Unchi Maru</i> ..	Japanese ...	Hakodate...	Crew 38 Japanese 393 skins on board.

A. K. JONES,  
Commander H.M.S. 'Algerine.'

No. 35.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Governor General.*

No. 125.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, October 30, 1911.

SIR,—I have received Your Royal Highness's despatch No. 103 of the 19th instant in which I am informed that Your Royal Highness's Responsible Advisers are anxious that the Pelagic Sealing Treaty between Great Britain and the United States shall be ratified at the earliest possible moment.



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I have the honour to inform Your Royal Highness that arrangements have been made between the Governments of Russia, Japan, the United States and Great Britain for the deposit at Washington of a single ratification of this Treaty by each Government with the United States Government who will issue a *procès verbal* of ratification to be signed on the part of the four Governments at the time of making the deposit.

This arrangement which is equivalent to the exchange of separate ratifications between each of the Powers concerned has been adopted at the suggestion of His Majesty's Government for the sake of convenience and has been approved by the other three Governments.

The ratification signed by His Majesty is already on its way to this country and the Representatives of the Governments of Russia and Japan have each cabled to their respective Governments with a view to expediting the despatch of their ratifications.

It is therefore to be hoped in view of the above facts and also inasmuch as the United States Government are fully aware of the necessity for the prompt exchange of ratifications as will be seen from the note, (copy of which is enclosed) that has been addressed to the Governments of Russia, Japan and Great Britain, that the ratifications will be duly deposited in the manner above indicated at the earliest possible moment.

I do not need to assure Your Royal Highness that as soon as this is done the matter will be reported to Your Royal Highness's Government.

I have, &c.,

JAMES BRYCE.

H.R.H. The DUKE OF CONNAUGHT AND STRATHEARN, K.G.,

&c.

&c.

&c.

Governor General.

**Enclosure in No. 35.**

*From the United States Acting Secretary of State to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

WASHINGTON, October 27, 1911.

EXCELLENCY,—Referring to the understanding which has been reached by the four signatory Governments that the exchange of ratifications of the Convention for the Protection of Seals and other Fur Bearing animals in the North Pacific Ocean, signed at Washington on July 7th last by the plenipotentiaries of the United States, Great Britain, Japan and Russia, be effected by having a single ratification by each Government deposited with the Government of the United States and a *procès verbal* of ratification issued by it, I have the honour to enclose herewith for the approval of your Government a draft form of *procès verbal* of ratification to be signed on the part of the four Governments at the time of making the deposit.

In view of the fact that prompt legislation by the Congress of the United States will be required to give effect to the provisions and obligations of the treaty on the part of the United States, I should be thankful if, perceiving no objection, you would be so good as to invite, by cable, the attention of your Government to the great importance of the deposit of ratifications being made at the earliest possible moment in order



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that the President may, upon the reassembling of Congress on December 4th next, be in a position promptly to seek of that body the necessary legislation.

I have, &c.,

ALVEY A. ADEE,

*Acting Secretary of State.*

Enclosure: Draft form of *procès verbal* as above.

His Excellency

The Right Honourable JAMES BRYCE, O.

### No. 36.

To His Royal Highness the Governor General:

The undersigned has the honour to represent to Your Royal Highness that the Department of Marine and Fisheries is in receipt of a telegram from the Collector of Customs at Victoria to the effect that the sealing vessels which were out last year are requesting licenses for another voyage and clearances to start thereon.

Pending the ratification of the recent Treaty on the subject of the prohibition of Pelagic Sealing in the North Pacific Ocean, the Department of Marine and Fisheries is unable to instruct the Collector with regard to the course to be taken in connection with the sealing vessels; but anticipating an immediate ratification of the Treaty the Collector of Customs has been wired not to issue any licenses or to grant clearances to sealing vessels until further instructed.

The undersigned has the honour to recommend that the substance of this report may be communicated by telegram to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington and that Mr. Bryce be urged to do what he can to expedite the ratification of this Treaty.

Humbly submitted,

W. J. ROCHE,

*Secretary of State for External Affairs.*

OTTAWA, 17th November, 1911.

### No. 37.

*From the Governor General to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.*

Telegram.

OTTAWA, November 20, 1911.

Your despatch 30th October, No. 125, pelagic sealing, Department of Marine and Fisheries report that sealing vessels are requesting licenses for voyages this season, and clearances to start. Anticipating early ratification of treaty Canadian Government have issued instructions not to grant licenses till further instructions, and are most anxious that ratification of Treaty may be expedited

ARTHUR.



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## No. 38.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Governor General.*

Telegram.

WASHINGTON, 21st November, 1911.

Your telegram of 20th: Our ratifications received, those of Russia and Japan are on the way. Exchange will take place on earliest possible date; and it is expected within fortnight at the latest. They will be reported to you by telegraph.

BRYCE.

## No. 39.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Governor General.*

Telegram.

WASHINGTON, 12th December, 1911.

Sealing Treaty ratifications deposited to day.

BRYCE.

## No. 40.

*From His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Governor General.*

Telegram.

WASHINGTON, 14th December, 1911.

United States are publishing Sealing Treaty to-day, if possible, in view of the fact it comes into force to-morrow.

BRYCE.

## No. 41.

CERTIFIED copy of a Report of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Royal Highness the Governor General on the 4th January, 1912.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated 27th December, 1911, from the Secretary of State for External Affairs, calling attention to the fact that in the recent International Pelagic Sealing Treaty signed at Washington on the 7th July, 1911, it is provided that the Convention shall go into effect upon the 15th December, 1911.

The Minister observes that for the application to British subjects of the provisions of this Treaty, Imperial legislation is necessary;

That applications are even now being made to the Collector of Customs at Victoria for clearances to engage in sealing during the coming season. The Collector has been instructed not to grant any such clearances, or to issue licenses to pelagic sealing vessels. This, however, is merely a temporary arrangement and it is felt that



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appropriate legislation should be sought of the Imperial Parliament at the earliest possible moment.

The Committee, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, advise that Your Royal Highness may be pleased to bring to the attention of the Right Honourable the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies the desirability of the enactment of requisite legislation in this behalf.

All which is respectfully submitted for approval.

F. K. BENNETTS,  
*Assistant Clerk of the Privy Council.*

### No. 42.

*From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General.*

Canada.

No. 1002.

DOWNING STREET,  
29th December, 1911.

SIR,—With reference to Your Royal Highness's despatch No. 553 of the 19th of October and previous correspondence, I have the honour to transmit to you for the information of your Ministers copies of two treaties on the subject of Pelagic Sealing. I have to add that the Treaty of the 7th July was ratified on the 12th instant.

2. It will be seen by comparison of the Treaties that the Treaty between this country, the United States of America, Russia and Japan practically supersedes the Treaty of the 7th February between the United Kingdom and the United States.

3. I have to invite the special attention of your Ministers to the obligation imposed upon the whole of the Empire by Articles 1, 2, 3, and 6 of the Treaty of July 7. Your Ministers will no doubt take such steps as may be necessary to carry out the obligations of Canada under these Articles.

I have, &c.,  
L. HARCOURT.

Governor General

His Royal Highness

The Duke of Connaught and of Strathearn, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.B.,

### No. 43.

*From the Governor General to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.*

Canada.

No. 5.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
OTTAWA, 9th January, 1912.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith, for Your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies



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regarding the desirability of the enactment at the earliest possible moment of the requisite Imperial legislation in connection with the Pelagic Sealing Treaty.

I have, etc.,

ARTHUR.

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

JAMES BRYCE, P.C.,

&c.

No. 44.

*From the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

Canada.

No. 9.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

OTTAWA, 9th January, 1912.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith for your consideration, copies of an approved Minute of the Privy Council for Canada on the subject of 4th January. the legislation necessary for the application to British subjects of the provisions of the Pelagic Sealing Treaty.

I am sending a copy of this Despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington for his information.

I have, etc.,

ARTHUR.

The Right Honourable

LEWIS V. HARCOURT, M.P.,

Secretary of State

for the Colonies.











